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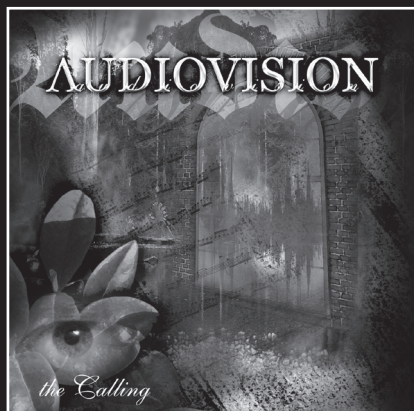


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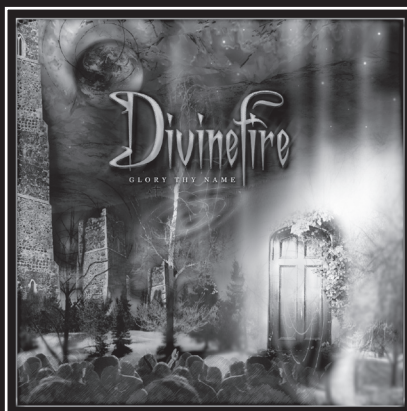
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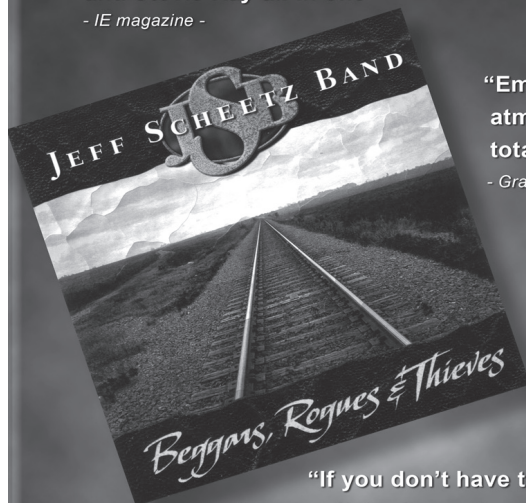
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Issue #56
Feb/Mar 2005

HEAVEN'S METAL

Things are going well.

The re-launch of Heaven's Metal Fanzine has gone really well. At press time we've had to do four reprints of the "debut" issue (#55) thus far. I was even able to fix a couple typo's in between the first printing and the second (one of the benefits of printing "zine style"). Putting together the list of "100 Albums you may have missed" was a chore, though, because there were so many good albums we had to cut from the list! To make space, we cut out all the compilation albums (and there were some fine ones, like: *Come Armageddon*, *In the Shadow of Death*, *Isaiah 53:5*, *The Collection: Tools of the Trade*); and we agonizingly axed some great bands, like: Armageddon Holocaust, Adrian Gale, Slechtvalk, Sinai Beach, Nodes of Ranvier, Training for Utopia, Vardoger, Mental Destruction, Klank, Morphia, Sanctifica, Sanctum, Still Breathing, Tiles, and Wedding Party (just to name a few). I'm sure that we left off at least one album from every reader's list, but we knew it wouldn't be exhaustive – just a sample of some great metal that's been released in the last ten years. So, you can send in an angry protest letter if you'd like, but we like those encouraging ones better!

Don't forget to visit HmMag.com/heavensmetal

Grace and Peace,

ELEMENTS

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METAL TRACKS

Hard-news-for-metal-heads



CELEBRITY COMPETITION

Who would win a "Celebrity Death Match" between Ronnie James Dio and Klaus Meine? Whoever has the height advantage, naturally...

Are Eric Clayton and Michael Sweet one and the same? Is it a coincidence that Stryper's and Saviour Machine's careers took off at different times? Have they ever been in the same room together? See what I mean?

News bullets

The new album by **Liberty n' Justice** will be called *Soundtrack of a Soul*. Three of the 16 guest vocalists for this special project are **Dale & Troy Thompson**, **Jamie Rowe**, and **Scott Wenzel**.

Nineteen88 just inked a deal with the Indie division of Capitol Records, which will put their debut album on shelves by the first of March. They will also have their tunes at a host of digital music providers.

Steve Rowe reports that **Mortification** are busy working on their next album, which should release sometime in 2006.

Sinai Beach has completed work on their sophomore album, *Immersed*, with producer Eric Rachel (Atreyu, God Forbid) with an expected Spring release.

Pacto de Sangre (Blood Covenant) from Puerto Rico is a melodic metal band which incorporates both speed and thrash into their sound. The songs are sung in both English and Spanish. Their latest CD, *Alerta*, should be out now.

Salem Hill is recording a new CD that is geared towards their believing fans. Guitarist **Carl Groves** recently spent a few hours jamming with **Phil Keaggy** and Neal Morse. Naturally, several Beatles songs were covered. "The highlight of the evening," confesses Carl, "was trading solos with Phil Keaggy on Hendrix's 'Little Wing.' But it was also pretty cool hearing Keaggy rip the harpsichord solo from the Beatles' 'In my Life' on his guitar."

Petra just played their second date this year in India. It's their second trip to India since 2002. Their Aizawl concert drew 20,000 people. A Calcutta newspaper reported that it was the largest concert in the state of Mizoram. Some of the local reaction seems funny to our Western ears: "It's hard to believe! I feel like I'm in a US city," a teenage girl screamed. Petra performed for 90 minutes, which left many disappointed. "I bought a ticket for a very high price. I'm not satisfied with a one-and-a-half hour show," a disgruntled concert-goer complained. This is similar to feedback I heard years back in England about a 70-minute P.O.D. concert that left 'em wanting more (it seems people over there like real long shows)...

"On December 31, 2004," reports **Bruce Fitzhugh**, "myself, **Lance** and **Rocky** recorded 3 new **Living Sacrifice** songs for a Living Sacrifice compilation/best of album. It will come out on Solid State Records (on March 29) and be called *In Memoriam*."

King's X are recording in Nashville with famed producer Michael Wagener (Stryper). "A real album," jokes Pinnick, as the last few were self-produced.

Jacob's Dream has turned in their new album, *Drama of the Ages*, to Metal Blade.



Whitecross re-unite

Whitecross founders **Rex Carroll** and **Scott Wenzel** met in Indianapolis, IN with visionary and managing director, Greg Hays, to begin discussions of a new Whitecross album as well as re-recording their debut self-titled album. Greg Hays was a vital part of Stryper's return to the music scene and also operates GirderMusic.com, the official online store to many bands, including Whitecross, Saint, Messiah Prophet, Sin Dizzy and others. "It's amazing, after all these years," reports Rex. "Scotty and I get another chance to work together. I've always wanted to remake our debut CD, and now we have a chance to do exactly that. I think it's long overdue,

and I can't wait to get it out there. I guess God's not done with me yet." They are also going to record a brand new album, as well. "I am so excited that Heaven's Metal is coming back," says Scott. "God has a mighty hand and He's going to lift up those that exalt Him. We are looking forward as a band, to do exactly that. I'm excited to be working with Rex once again and know that God has great things in store for us." To celebrate this important event, Rex is auctioning off his famous Peavey Vandenberg guitar. This was the primary guitar used in the making of *In the Kingdom* and *High Gear* as well as being Rex's primary guitar used while on tour. [WhitecrossMusic.com].

Some of you may have heard that **Michael Bloodgood** has suffered a "spontaneous carotid arterial dissection." The left carotid vein collapsed and caused a swelling of the vein impacting three cranial nerves leaving one of his vocal cords, the left side of his tongue, and part of his ability to swallow in a state of paralysis. This is a very rare event (odds are only 2.5/100,000), so it took an extensive series of tests (CAT scan, multiple MRI, MRA tests, x-rays, bloods tests) before the doctors were able to discover what exactly had happened. Thankfully, Michael did not suffer a stroke as initially diagnosed, but continues to experience ipsilateral headaches and neck aches along with the other symptoms of the dissection. The doctors are optimistic that he will make a full recovery over the weeks and months ahead, but will continue to monitor his blood pressure and look for any sign of clotting as a result of the dissection. Please keep Michael in your prayers for his full and speedy recovery. Michael summarized by saying this: "Don't know if you heard about what I've been going through, but I'm a mess! Would sure appreciate your prayers." He can be reached at the following address: P.O. Box 2857, Redmond WA 98073-2857.

The boys from **East West** got to head back over to Europe in December to play *Christmas Rock Night* and *Winter Wonder Rock* festivals. Right when they got home, they hopped into the studio to start pre-production on their next album – which is currently untitled. Rumor has it they are working with both of their old producers, so we should be getting the best of both albums. Don't forget to look out for the guys, who were extras in the Adam Sandler remake of *The Longest Yard*.

Zao will be hitting the road for a long tour with **The Juliana Theory**. No news yet if former Zao guitarist / current TJT frontman **Brett Detar** will join Zao onstage for any six-string jamming. **Sinai Beach** will also join the *City of Champions* tour on select dates. Both groups hail from the outskirts of Pittsburgh (dubbed the "City Of Champions" during the 70's, when the Steelers conquered the Super Bowl and the Pirates dominated the World Series). "We have been discussing the idea of touring together for years," says Detar. "Some of the Juliana Theory's first shows were opening for Zao when I was still in the band. We are looking forward to spending several weeks on the road with our best friends on this tour." Detar's eventual replacement on guitar in Zao, **Scott Mellinger**, was equally as excited: "This is something we have wanted to do for such a long time and there is no better time than the present, as they say."

The new **Whitecross** re-recorded self-titled debut album re-issue will include bonus tracks, like "Love on the Line," (originally released as a 12" vinyl single). For those that missed their reunion at C-stone 2002, the song "Because of Jesus" is on the HM DVD.

HM MAGAZINE TURNS 20

For some reason the Lifeway Christian bookstore chain have stopped carrying HM Magazine; and Roadrunner Records has also vowed not to work with HM again (because it didn't censor the "Slipknot Says" interview in its Nov/Dec issue), but that doesn't deter the magazine from carrying on. HM has a "Heaven's Metal" feature and a "Morrow Metal Report" each issue, and leading up to its 20th Anniversary issue this July, there has been a "Hard Music History" feature in the back, chronicling the contributions of artists like Larry Norman, Rez, Stryper, King's X, and the Crucified.

METAL TRACKS

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True Story

Skillet and **Seventh Day Slumber** have been touring together, along with Kids in the Way. The bus SDS has been using is, shall we say, "challenged," but it's coming in handy for other reasons...

On the 2nd night of the tour, their bus broke down with a cracked head. The repair shop estimated the damage to be in the thousands. Then, back at the show, Jeremy's amp blew out in the middle of the 3rd song. Joseph apologized to the crowd that they were having technical difficulties that day, and that he had some stuff on his mind he wanted to discuss in the 10 minutes left of their set. There were about 1,500 people in attendance and 150 came down for the altar call to let Jesus into their hearts and lives. When Joseph asked if there were any people in the audience who'd ever contemplated suicide, about 50 raised their hand. He asked again if any of those had thought about ending it all that night, and 15 people identified themselves. The crowd was cheering and the guys in Skillet came out to see what was happening. They volunteered to unload SDS' gear from the stage and take it to their bus so that Joseph could minister to those people who needed it. He took the 15 people back to a private room. After everyone left, he went back to pick up the bus and pay for the repairs. The owner of the shop said the staff had been playing the band's first CD (*Picking Up the Pieces*) all day and asked that they pay only the cost of parts, volunteering a full day's labor if the band would give them five more

CDs. The following letter from the wife of one of those workers at the repair shop explains more:

"Friday, January 7th, while touring in Dayton, your bus was experiencing some mechanical difficulties. Your coach with driver came to Ohio Cat to solicit service. While there, the driver spoke to my husband and offered him a CD. He and I both love music, so he graciously took it. He returned to his desk and popped it into his computer to listen while he continued his work day. Little did your driver know, my husband had just returned to work after attending services for his baby sister who had just died January 1st. The first song to play was 'I Know.' This sister decided mid-week that this world was not worth living in any longer. She could not rationalize the vastness of God's love with the tragedies of this world. A combination of prescription and over-the-counter drugs reeked havoc on her system as she lay unconscious. Eventually, her body decided enough was enough and began to shut down. Your CD and first track has spoken in so many ways to my husband. It is helping him to begin a healing process; although I don't think he will ever understand 'Why' she could make such a decision. I wanted to write this to you to thank you for allowing God to use your group to minister to those who need it. You just happened to be in the right place at the right time and didn't even know it. See, your bus needing service was all in God's time, for His good."

News bullets

Ken Tamplin has kept himself busy with music over the years, including dabbling as a producer. He has been working with two-time world champ surfer/musician/model **Daize Shayne**, who was scheduled to jam at the Peavey Guitars booth at the Winter NAAM show in Anaheim, California. Joining her are some musical legends: Steve Morse; Jeff Watson (Night Ranger); Doug Aldrich (Lion, Dio, Whitesnake); as well as Toto lead vocalist Bobby Kimball. Daize has also been asked to appear in the Albion Entertainment film, *The Still Life*. On the modeling side, look for her to be "the face" for the new BikeBoard skateboard/BMX company.

For those that wondered, the guys in **KEKAL** were not harmed in the terrible tsunami that destroyed much of Indonesia. They are now releasing their new album, *Acidity*.

Speaking of the tsunami, **Skillet's** *Collide* tour will be promoting donations to the new "Music for Relief" organization. "Since the disaster we've been asking ourselves as a band, 'What can we do?'" commented lead singer **John Cooper**. "We've all seen the footage on the news and the despair and loss is unimaginable. With that in mind we will be encouraging our fans to support this massive need by donating any amount of money they can to Music For Relief, so we can join in one of many efforts being made worldwide to help."

Rivera/Bomma have opted to re-master their new album, *I Am God*, one more time before releasing it. Look for it in April.

Akacia's album, *The Brass Serpent*, will be released on Musea Records very soon.

Global Warning's new album, *Enemy Within*, should be out by the end of February.

Blushing Well will be heading to Nashville soon to record their 4th CD.

The General Gypsy Cams is an acoustic blues artist that is currently getting added to a lot of metal stations.

There's a crazy new band with face paint that is making the rounds, called **Warrior** (expect a review in our next issue).

It's true, **Stryper** are recording a new album.

Bride is also writing material for a new album.

HM Magazine is sponsoring the *Dancefloor Disaster* tour with **Seventh Star**, **Bloody Sunday**, and **Clear Convictions**, criss-crossing the USA for six weeks,

CONCERT REVIEW

REVOLUTION METAL FEST 2004, MEXICO CITY 11/20/04

Revolution Metal Fest started on Friday the 19th of Nov with a huge Press Conference at the beautiful Motel the bands were staying at compliments of the Mexican promoters.

The main topic of discussion initially was Stryper's cancellation of The Fest. After we all vented our frustrations about that it was down to the real deal. What was happening with the Real Jesus Metal bands that had come & what could Mexico expect. All the bands were excited to be representing The Gospel of Jesus Christ in Mexico. Topics such as Heavy Metal & the Church & politics in The Western World were discussed but already there was a sense of unity amongst the bands and a feeling that God would move powerfully at The Fest.

The arena almost cancelled with the absence of Stryper but Rainer Mittelstaedt (Narnia & Saviour Machine manager) & myself were called in to persuade the arena manager that this was a Fest for 5 bands, not just Stryper plus supports. We had travelled 30 hours & the Swedes 15 and we knew the people would come. It was hard to stay peaceful in the midst of greed.

As it happens 3000 people came in to see the Fest & only approximately 1500 wanted their money back or decided not to pay on the day. The Fest was thus so complete as it happened.

Exousia opened the day blistering through a set of tight melodic Unblack Metal style. With long black hair spinning in circles Exousia are a world class Extreme Metal act. Marco (Vocalist) & Miguel (Guitarist) presented some spoken word in Spanish that set the mood for an awesome move of God.

We (Mortification) followed with our street level Extreme Metal Power Trio style presentation. This was the first time we had played through walls of Amps. 800 Watts of Bass Amps through 32 speakers & 400 watts of Marshall Amps also through 32 speakers. Brutal! Every Metalhead's dream. We did songs from all Mortification eras and the spoken word about the Disciples who followed Jesus and bringing up our children in the ways of God was given as a message directly to my heart. I wept with people after



the show who had known no human Father. I was able to point them to their Heavenly Father.

Narnia's set was the finest Power Metal set, musically that I have ever witnessed, and the presence of God was tangible in the hall. Narnia Vocalist Christian had expressed to me that he was not going to have any spoken word interpreted as I had but had been praying that The Holy Spirit would simply fall upon the crowd. As Narnia played the songs Christian fell to his knees drawing the presence of God into the hall. It was so strong I was in tears. I have never felt the presence of The Holy Spirit so strongly at a Christian event. God was moving powerfully throughout the Narnia set.

Saviour Machine played last & Eric Clayton's theatrical presentation of the life of Jesus & The Book of Revelation was so gripping and captivating. Symbolically dipping the white mask in The Blood of Jesus & pouring the Blood of Jesus on The American flag was a whole new realm of Evangelistic presentation. Awe Inspiring stuff! Eric finished the

set with 4 songs from the first 2 albums and walked amongst the crowd singing words of Repentance, Praise & Worship. The crowd moved with him in united voice to God. A most incredible finale to an amazing day.

I cannot express how Blessed I feel to have been part of such an event. The 3000 people that came into the Fest will be the people that will change Mexico forever. There is no way that anyone could have left that place without being touched & changed. It was like an upper room experience which brought together 4 bands that most of "the church" would see as playing devil music. This Fest was not about making money it was about the Glory of God. No band could possibly have followed what was so complete when Saviour Machine left the stage.

I cannot relay to you the reader just how annointed this Fest was & there were no alter calls or public praying. Just the move of God on an audience I have been believing for, for 20 years. To God be The Glory, Great things HE has done! [Steve Rowe] →

EXTOL

THE ARCHITECT SKETCH

They've been called everything from The Mighty Extol to the most overrated band in music. If the band spent much time listening to every thing that was said about them, they might end up becoming big-headed and proud or checking into the hospital with deep depression. It's not that Extol isn't overflowing with talent. Even their harshest of critics will admit that the band is good at what they do. The problem that many people have is the band's drastic style changes from album to album. Lead singer Peter Espevoll

gives his take on the criticisms, "It's never funny to read or hear complaints and negative comments on music you make. But to be honest, we are much more concerned about making music that we feel is right in our hearts and that we know we can stand for 100%, than listening to other people's opinions. (Whether it would be from fans or from labels). It seems, though, that our music has the tendency of growing on people, and that some of the die-hard fans that really couldn't stand *Synergy* when it

was first released now say that it is our best release so far." And speaking of labels, what does Century Media think of what has happened to the once-progressive death metal band they signed a few years ago? "They weren't aware of the style changes at the time they signed us, but we have had an open dialogue all the time about what direction we want to take our music. They have never interfered with the way we make our music nor have they told us what direction to take. Their response has been overwhelm-



ing and it seems that they are over-satisfied with the new album!"

In 2005, Extol is releasing their new album *The Blueprint Dives*. Based on the four songs I've heard, it sounds like this will be another drastic change for the band. One reason for the change is the loss of the band's two guitar players. Espevoll explains, "Well, in February 2004 our two guitar players, Christer Espevoll and Ole Borud, decided to leave the band. We wanted to put even more effort and time into Extol to take the band to a new level, but both Christer and Ole felt that they couldn't make the commitment it required and thus decided to leave the band to focus their time and energy on other things. It was a 'clean cut' and no hard feelings involved the decision. We pretty much found ourselves standing on bare ground in search for new and dedicated members, and we were very pleased when Tor Glidje and Ole Halvard Sveen decided to join the Extol

technical and melodic elements that Extol had been known for, from both *Undeceived* and *Burial*. When it comes to the changes between *Synergy* and *Blueprint*, I guess it's quite obvious that a band sounds somewhat different after such a drastic line-up change. More than ever we found ourselves starting with clean sheets, and we didn't really know until we started recording the material, how it was going to sound. One thing we really wanted to do, though, was to make an album with a lot of focus on interesting and catchy melodies for the vocals. This has resulted in much more use of melodic vocals on *Blueprint* compared with earlier Extol releases. Having said that, *Blueprint* also contains some of the heaviest songs in my opinion, we've ever made."

So even though Extol can easily explain their reason for their musical changes, some fans are not so easily appeased. Another complaint that many had with the band in

July. They plan on hitting some festivals like Cornerstone, Sonshine, and Ichthus, and they are also hoping to hook up with a bigger band so that they can share their music with people who are not familiar with Extol. At the time of this interview the band is not sure of who they will be touring with or where, but they hope to hit places from the East to the West coast. And for any of those long time fans that think that Extol may never play their old style of music again, they still plan on giving all of their fans a taste of their different sides. Former and now new guitarist Tor Glidje assures, "We'll mainly be playing new songs, but there will be old songs included in the set. I played the *Burial* and *Undeceived* material for three years, but the songs from these albums are new to Ole, and we have to see which songs he feels comfortable with playing live. But there will be some old songs, that's for sure. The reason why Extol has so many dedicated fans is often because of the older

"...we are a band that develops all the time. Every time we make a new album we have clean sheets and try as much as we can to start from scratch, making something new and interesting. Many bands have the tendency of just reproducing themselves, releasing one album after the other, sounding more or less the same. We wouldn't have survived as musicians if we were to do that."

family! They are both excellent guitar players and songwriters, and they also fit the band perfectly on a more personal level."

With a revamped lineup and "fresh start" of sorts, Extol set out to create their next masterpiece. However, much to the dismay of the "Extol purists" who want nothing more than a *Burial* or *Undeceived Part II*, the band chose a different route. Espevoll expounds, "I think anyone who has been following Extol for some time can agree, we are a band that develops all the time. Every time we make a new album we have clean sheets and try as much as we can to start from scratch making something new and interesting. Many bands have the tendency of just reproducing themselves, releasing one album after the other, sounding more or less the same. We wouldn't have survived as musicians if we were to do that. After *Undeceived* we really wanted to do an album with a more thrashy approach to it. All of us had been into the early thrash scene in the late 80s and early 90s, and we wanted to create an album with some of the rawness and energy found in the releases of this period, and combine it with the

2004 was their tour with Demon Hunter and The Agony Scene. Many were upset to say the least, when they went to the shows and found that Extol was the opening band and Demon Hunter was the headlining band, regardless of the fact that Extol has been around longer and is more widely known. Espevoll sets the record straight, "The reason why Demon Hunter headlined that tour, and not us, is quite simple. We were late on organizing a tour in the U.S. and we got the offer that we could join the Demon Hunter tour. Obviously we could not headline this tour, since it was their tour from the beginning. I am aware that many metalheads feel that it's a blow to a band's credibility to tour with bands that are not 100% metal. We don't share that view. We want to play our music to anyone who wants to listen. Young or old, black or white, metal heads or pop kids! A diverse lineup usually draws bigger crowds as well, so it makes it more fun for the bands to play, and of course gives the bands the chance to get a wider audience. To us that is a good thing."

Speaking of shows, Extol is heading to the U.S. again in April and will stay through

material and we won't betray them by only playing new songs. We'll also include two or three songs from *Synergy* and maybe even one from *Paralysis*. Our main focus will be on the new material, though, because we want to promote the new album as much as possible."

Since the band has been setting the record straight, I asked them if they could ever see themselves going back to their earlier extreme style. Glidje responds, "Being into extreme metal for almost 15 years, the 'extreme metal' term seems blurry to me. There's not many bands nowadays that I would call extreme. You know, I started to listen to hard rock and heavy metal, and then turned to thrash and hardcore, then to death metal and grindcore, and then black metal, always wanting the music to be more extreme. After a few years the music in itself didn't make the music extreme. It's just that the music is played faster and harder. To me, extreme music, if it's metal or pop, has everything to do with the performer, and the heart behind the music. That's how I see it. But I understand what you mean – if we're ever going to record a death metal or black

ANTESTOR

FACE PAINT SCHMACE PAINT



*For those that have noticed, Antestor is extremely good at what they play. Liked a skilled craftsman, they take their sweet time writing and recording songs, but a new album is now out, and it's time to talk about *The Forsaken*. But first I couldn't help but recall an uncomfortable experience I shared with them at the Sonshine Festival several years ago.*

Remember that show at the Sonshine Festival a few years back? When that "anointed/prophetic" (or did I say disjointed and pathetic?) pastor lady told those kids that there were demons hovering over you guys as you performed? (I assume you still remember) What have you learned or come away with since that event? Did it teach you anything? Make an impact on you? How do you deal with that kind of "word" that someone says God is telling them something bad about you?

"Yes I do remember. I think it was the first year the sonshine fest had metal on the menu...back in 2000. First off, I got scared... and somewhat uncertain, since she attacked us the way she did, by telling us that we were definitely not Christian..." (vocalist Ronny LASTNAME chuckles) "She told us that she felt some presence when we played that she couldn't explain... For a long time I thought she couldn't cope with our corpse-paint, and that I didn't salute God between every song. But actually as things started to get annoying I understood that it was the music, and, of course, my vocals that she hated. She had some followers... some "disciples" behind her back that agreed with her and nodded every time she stated something... and made at least me feel like I've been a naughty young boy..." (chuckles) "And she was very good with words so that we didn't come into a discussion at once, since her verbal onslaught was drowning us." (more chuckling) "So, sadly enough... we couldn't talk any sense into her. She wouldn't listen to us, because she put herself so high upon that pedestal of knowing it all... Oh, I hate that..." (mild laughter) "We told her many times, that we're doing this for the hope of secularity to find some substance in Christianity. (Why should the devil have all the good music?) One of the goals of Antestor has always been to get people that normally wouldn't go to church or have any input afar from secularity, to think twice. We're not salvation, but we've had people who have listened to us, and got our message...and did something with their lives I bet they don't regret. It's not that I'd like to force down metal to pop/gospel-liking people... We're all different, and with different tastes in music, clothing, morals, and all... And we must respect all kinds of people for their views. But afar from that so-called pastor-woman, Sonshine was great, and we got quite a few who told us that they really felt the presence of the Spirit. And to close up this question: no one can please everyone. We do music in our own way – take it or deny us."

How do you balance the angle of performing and imaging yourself (face paint) for an audience and the whole Christian scene that gets pulled into it because Christian kids want to see you perform? How easy or how difficult is it to balance those two? And why?

"First off... This album, *The Forsaken*, has marked the end of the corpsepaint. Back in 94 Antestor used corpsepaint as the first Christian band... It was original. We do as we want, really, and now we have ended that. The whole hype about corpsepaint being anti-Christian and that hate we received from both the Christian and the secular scene has at least made us known to more people that normally wouldn't have heard about us." (chuckles again) "I will not comment on why we have worn the corpsepaint, since this is personal and individual. All I can say is... that the years of paint is gone now, and we must do a worldwide *Unmasked* tour, he he."

Tell me about this new album. What was it like writing the songs for it? What goals and direction did you set out with? Please give an example or two of how a song was written for this album.

"*The Forsaken* has taken Antestor over 6 years to develop. The song 'Vale Of Tears' was musically finished in 98, and 'Via Dolorosa' in 2000. We have had our struggles with all there is to be...but to give an example of how a song is made, Lars gave me some hints. First off, he starts making some riffs. Then, choosing one in particular, and thinking about it for a few days...before making something that fits to the already-made riff. The process of making riffs and melody can take a month before he is ready to show it to us. Then he gets input from the rest of Antestor. And the outcome of that discussion usually is progressive. Lars made 80% of the music on *The Forsaken*, helped by Morten and Bjørn. The lyrics are mainly written by me, except 'Vale Of Tears' done by Svein (former drummer); and 'Betrayed' written by Lars."

What sort of changes (if any) have you guys made to the "Antestor sound?"

"Well, our sound quality has actually become great. The earlier stuff we have produced had a lack of that. We have used quality professional musicians and a top studio. We've put quite a lot of money into this production, thanks to Samuel at Endtime Productions in Sweden. And the whole process of making this album has been done professional in every way – from the recording to the cover art painted by Necrolord."

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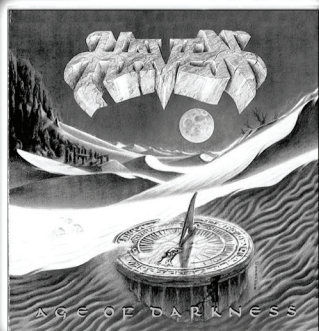
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RADROCKERS



What Metal Church Says

Here's another blast from the past (1999). It was a fun interview, conversing with Metal Church vocalist David Wayne. We jumped right in and started talking about the issue of abortion and God and it quickly became one of those conversations where a new friendship was being born. It got kinda squirmy at the very end, when he asked why we had (just) changed our name from Heaven's Metal to HM, though. Read on...

David Wayne: ...while they are telling everybody that abortion is ok, that it's just a lump of flesh. Well, the fact of the matter is that now scientists are even saying, recognizing that a zygote, which is one of the cell's fertilized eggs just starts to split, they call it a zygote. They are going, 'Man, that's life.'

Doug Van Pelt: Uh-huh.

They are just now, but you won't hear this in the pro-abortion circles or in our government; (it) is so sleazy – they don't want anyone to know about the hundreds of thousands of women that die or have complications or are sterilized because of this procedure. They don't want you to know. There is a book out called, *Lime 5* (by Mark Crutcher). They protected all the girls' names, but all these gals that, a lot of them that died – a lot of them that are sterilized, a lot of them have huge infections due to this procedure... (It) is very dangerous and no one ever tells the them. They go in for pregnancy counseling and they get pushed into abortion. They don't even tell them, 'Oh, you can give it up for adoption.' They don't want them to give it up for adoption. They want to get in there and get that money from the government, the subsidies, for murdering an unborn child.

Yeah.

You know, God said to Cain, 'Cain, where is your brother?' Cain says, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' Well, Jesus taught us we *are* our brother's keeper – by the story of the Good Samaritan, right?

Yep.

So, Cain pops off like that. You know, God points His finger – I speak figuratively – He says, 'Your brother's blood cries up to Me.' Now, all those who kill babies – their blood is crying up to God, right now, Doug. And you know something? Unless we get this country back on track, we are going to be judged for it. God doesn't let sin go unpunished.

Yep.

Anyways, I'm preaching at you brother!

Ha ha.

We just had to have a song regarding something like that and, oh gosh! There is another historical song – you don't mind me going off about our songs, do you?

No, please do.

Thanks. This one called, 'They Signed in Blood' is about the reformers – the Scottish reformers – way back when in the 1500's

Uh-huh.

When there was a gal named Queen Mary Tudor. She was nick-named 'Bloody Mary,' because of how she martyred the saints.

Uh-huh.

What she was doing, she was forcing her Catholic

beliefs on all of England. The Scottish covenanters, they made a covenant with that name and the Bible says we are to confess directly to God and we are supposed to pray to Him and not through a priest or Mary or whatever, you know? I'm not trying to offend any Catholics here, I'm just saying this is what took place.

Right.

Anyway, they made a covenant with themselves, and they are all signing it. It says, 'We are going to believe this way and we are not going to go along with the Church of England and this Rome.' And so they wrote this covenant out and they signed it, and some of the wiser men said, 'You know what? If and when this covenant falls under the hands of Queen Mary Tudor...' and it did and they were. So they pricked fingers and – this is true history, bro, in the church – they filled the feather quills with their own blood and wrote their names in blood, because they knew that it meant their lives when the queen got ahold of this document. And she did and she went around to the villages and she tortured and killed and tortured and killed. This was her thing, too... In her mind she figures she would like to solve, you know, serving God the right way, by killing these heretics.

Right.

It is an interesting piece of history and I thought when someone was sharing it with me and I went, 'Wow, where did you get that story?' And he said, it's from this old book that is out of print and the last printing was in 1950. It shows you how a lot of the old history, it seems like modern Christians aren't interested in what our forefather's went through...

Uh-huh.

...to give us religious freedom and reformation. So anyway, I chased down a copy of this old, dusty old book and wrote 'They Signed in Blood.' And it is funny, because a lot of non-Christian kids are gonna, 'Oh, that's a cool song, man...they signed in blood! Right on. Metal Church is hardcore, man.' And, come to point out here, it's a nice little story of Christian history. That's what that song's about. So, if you read the lyrics to 'They Signed in Blood,' you'll see the message that we're talking about.

Yeah, I had heard rumors for years that, uh, for about ten years that something was going on with the guys in Metal Church and, you know, 'Pray for them,' and stuff. And then, when I got the lyrics, I thought, 'Well, something must have happened.' Because it's pretty clear that there is something behind these lyrics.

Amen, amen. Yes sir, I was sitting there saying, 'Man, I don't want to come out and stuff a Schofield's Bible down their throat; and, at the same time, I just want to plant some seeds of truth. So, I got with some of the elders of the church and I said, 'Let's pray about this, because I want to write tough lyrics.' Because some of them are a little tougher. In fact, there is a song about a comatose patient that I had for a while; but I thought, 'Oh, how are we going to do this?' I thought I would like to get the Word of God in it, but it is a story about comas and the fear and frighteningness and – by the way, I have friend who's mother was in a coma and this is where I got this from. And she said, 'I remember every word you guys said when you came to me.' She remembered two of her friends that would come in and sit down and talk about all the gossip going on in the neighborhood – two church ladies, by the way – and she thought, 'You so and so's! You didn't even care about me. This was just something you were paying your dues of respect. You never even talked to me. I wasn't even in the room, as far as you were concerned.' So, we wrote this: 'Kiss for the Dead.' And we got to sneak in, 'All the prayers have been said, all the love that has been bled from our Lord Jesus Christ.' Uh, now I can't even remember the rest of the chorus, but we got those two seeds in there and that was pretty good. We kind of got that in there in that the last minute, because the song was more or less written and I was like, 'Man, we gotta keep putting seeds in these songs!'

Uh-huh.

So, that's what was done throughout the lyrics. I don't have it in front of me right now, but that was the thrust. Nothing without a little bit of truth in it.

Uh-huh.

I think there is even a couple of them about New Age gods and lyrics: 'New Age gods in each garage, write a book you like...' In another verse it says, 'Monuments and shrines are built to spirits

that deceive, soft associations with the angels you believe. Soon you'll find those friendly guides have led you far astray. Now you walk in black as night, you never learned to pray.' You know, because there are all these New Aged gods out there.

Yup.

People are getting hung up on angels, and you know what the angels told – Uh, I think it was John or Paul – 'Get up off the ground, don't you worship me, you worship God!' And, unfortunately, it looks like people are putting angels before God. That's just the way that devil likes it.

Uh-huh.

Anyway, I'm going off on tangents, bro.

"I don't want to come out and stuff a Schofield's Bible down their throat; and, at the same time, I just want to plant some seeds of truth."

I always bring that up when I argue with Jehovah's Witnesses – that, uh, that Jesus received worship and if He was just an angel like they say He was, He would have had to had said that line, you know, 'Get up, stop it.'

Yeah. Oh, the JW's are so deceived, I feel sorry for them.

Uh-huh.

I do. Have you ever been in one of them buildings?

No.

Dude, you can cut the evil with a knife! There are no windows. Oh, it's claustrophobic.

Really?

They don't even want windows in their buildings. It's dark, it's like a temple to Buddah or something else, you know.

Uh-huh.

Anyway...

I thought the lyrics to the song, 'Faster than Life,' were kind of heavy. "I control the names I hold, but I can't fit into your mold."

Oh, see – that's the guy that... He, Kurt had a lot... That was kind of more his. I mean I got ahold on. Let me get the CD. I just got a couple of fresh CD's from the record company. So stingy with them nowadays...

Haha.

You'd get a case to split between the band members... Nowadays they give you about 20 and say, 'Divide those.' And charge me for the case.

Yeah.

I paid for this one and it's even broken – the case is cracked. Ahh, I'm not going to complain... (Opens CD) 'Faster than Life' (and) 'Pound of Cure.' I felt bad about, because I did just... Here's 'Faster than Life,' (reads lyrics) 'I control the names I hold.' Ya know, that's good. Well, yeah – he redeems himself towards the end: 'I can't change the world I see, but I can change the world in me.'

Yeah.

Dying is easy, but it is harder just staying alive. Yep, it's kind of tough being a Christian in today's world.

Yeah, it's like, uh, there is a song that says, 'It is harder to believe than not to.' (Steve Taylor)

Yeah. You know what, though? I think sometimes it's easier to believe than not to. I think that the guys that are into evolution... These guys have... I-I-I praise them. I say, 'You know what? I wish I had the faith that you have!'

Hahaha.

'What? What do you mean?' I go, 'To believe that we came from monkeys. I tell you, man, I admire your faith that we came from monkeys.'

Yeah, no kidding.

Man, it is – to believe in an all-mighty, personal God that made everything from just His (Word), because it pleased Him to do so, He created everything. But, um, to believe that we came from primordial ooze? In fact... Ah ha! Which one of the songs did I squish that into? It's, 'Laughter rises from primordial ooze.'

Yeah, it's 'All your Sorrows.'

'All your Sorrows.' Oh, you're faster than me.

'Laughter erupts from primordial sea.'

Yeah, laughter – in that it is a joke to believe that we came from that.

Oh, I know.

In search of the answers what never should be – that got twisted. It's: 'In search of the answers what never could be.' That's another type-o. There are type-o's all through this darn thing.

Ha!

'From primordial sea, standing there naked on bended knee. All of your works face eternity!' That's kind of . . . but see here again it's not obvious. I think, on laymen's terms, you and I as Christians will recognize that's exactly what's going to happen.

Yeah.

And I admit maybe it has, uh, a little but of a husk and seed there, but the truth is we will be naked before God with all of our works and we are going to have to stand and deliver.

Sure.

Those of us who are washed in the blood are not judged, but those who aren't are judged already. Jesus says, 'You are condemned already.' You and me? We're... God does not even see the sin through the blood of Jesus.

Uh-huh.

Romans, it talks about pre-destination. It always wakes me up. I love it! It says, 'Those He chose and those He called He also chose. Those He chose He also glorified.' Well then, wait a minute! We aren't in our glorified bodies yet, Doug.

"Your phone call telling me that you're right with the Lord is a direct answer from God and it took Him eight years, and God answers prayer."

Yeah.

But, you see, with God – past, present, future – it plays no role. God looks at time the way you and I would look at an orange. I mean, this is the best way I can sum it up. You can look at the back, the top, the sides, the front, bottom. Because He created time. Time is God's creation. He is non-corporeal and He is also non-spacial. So, it doesn't effect Him at all to see you and me in the future in our glorified bodies. I think that is cool man, that's a promise that has made me have joy in my heart.

You know what has been wiggling me out lately is that I have been studying the humanity of Christ and how He is fully God and fully man, and while He was on earth it was like He put a self-imposed limitation on Himself and...

You got it dude. Lots of people don't understand that! He did. He did, because you know what, as God He knew when He was coming back. That His self-imposed limitations, as you just said, cause God can't lie. God and Jesus Christ can't lie, so when Jesus says, 'I don't know what time I am coming back,' that was veiled from Him, just like when He was on the Mount of Transfiguration, some of that veil fell aside and He was blinding those guys. That's cool. Go ahead man, I interrupted you. It got me excited.

Well, yeah, it's exciting to think about how, well, He's a perfect mediator and so He was truly a man when He walked on the earth and, uh, it's just mystifying, because He knows how high every wave is going to come in on the beach, He knows the number of hairs on our head. But when He was walking on this earth, He didn't carry that knowledge. It was

laid aside.

Right, you got it man. I'm with ya.

It's a fascinating study.

That kind of stuff is the stuff... See, I'm going to go out and deer hunt. I don't have any problems – God made the animals for me not vice-versa – and I really get a belly full of this PETA stuff. People say that we were made for the animals, (it) really makes me just want to hurl my lunch.

Especially where you live.

Oh yeah, this state is so darn liberal it makes me, uhh... Anyway. Dad and I are going hunting. We'll be camped out Tuesday night, Wednesday morning our arrows will be in our bows and we will be camouflaged and out in the sticks looking to kill a deer. And, the reason I like bringing this up is because what you and I are talking about

when you just brought up the limitations of Christ: Dad and I were talking about the Lord... That was one of the things Dad was saying, 'You know, son, Christ lowered Himself and kept away a lot of the knowledge and power that He had when He was in heaven so that He could become man. So there had to be some limitations – the fact that He didn't know when He was coming back showed that He wasn't – that He didn't have all of His powers.' I mean He was all powerful; but, as you said, He had to cloak some of that. He had to leave some of that behind, so to speak. And as you said, He didn't know all the hairs at that time, nor the number of grains of sand on the beaches, but now He does.

That's a good point.

Yeah, cool stuff though, huh?

I need to back track. I found out when you were telling me about the song 'Falldown.' I got all the explanation about that, but I noticed my tape recorder . . . my jack was plugged into monitor/earphone, instead of microphone. So, I just wanted to fill in some of the gaps, because I just got bits and pieces of the interview on tape.

Alright, no problem.

I guess the biggest part of the interview – the back story and what's been going on in the last ten years again. So, what's been going on in the last ten years?

Uh, did you cover the cop thing?

Uh, no we didn't get that on tape, so...

Well, I was living next door to this police officer and I was involved in a lot of sin and debauchery

and things like that, and I always felt bad about it, because the guy was a really nice. He was a Christian man. Nowadays I can see him for what he really was – he was a devout and godly man. There were things on the police force that he would share with me that weren't copacetic with the ideals a police force should be run, but at the same time, he put God first and he didn't care what the rest of the police force did. He would start each day with prayer and reading and stuff. Anyway, I liked the guy a lot and I always felt bad about how we were up all night partying and doing dope and stuff. He prayed for me and prayed for me, and when I got right with the Lord here, a few years ago, I called him up at the police station and he let out a big old whoop/scream and found out later that he was right in the middle of roll call and he took my phone call. So, he says, 'Man, I have been praying for you for eight years and, uh, you gotta find the answer in prayer. Your phone call telling me that you're right with the Lord is a direct answer from God and it took Him eight years, and God answers prayer.'

Yeah, man, I grew up on an Air Force base and I hear there is a website called 'Military Brats' and I want to look up some of my high school acquaintances – the Christians that I knew – that saw me and how running wild I was. I just want to give them that joy to know that their prayers, you know, were answered.

I don't know if we talked about... Uh, oh, no. We talked about Megadeth, Metallica, they ain't Christian. Cause I know Metallica's not that distant, he's got the knowledge.

Yeah?

We were talking about some of the songs... So, the message is again about the large-scale murdering of babies. They're in what should be the safest place in their entire lives...

No doubt.

Is in their mother's womb and we are having doctors, who by the way when they take their oath of Hippocrates, they say, they pledge to never perform an abortion. It's right in that old oath of the Hippocrates.

Uhuh.

I've read it. I know the oath, I've worked in hospitals. I was a medic – a phase one paramedic, PMT, physical therapist. I know this oath. I have seen it and they all, when they graduate from medical school they have to take this oath and it does say never perform an abortion, and so we wrote this song called 'Falldown.' The title of the song is referring to our society falling down – the course being evil is breeding. The master is Jesus Christ, our Father, and He is grieving. 'Master of grieving, alive so deceiving that we all fall down.' I remember watching the news – which is part of the reason why I wrote this particular line – talking about when a woman is in a car accident and her unborn child is killed they sue or they bring charges up on

the death of the unborn child. Now why is that when it's not a child – when they carve it out with a scalpel or a vacuum – that it suddenly is a lump of tissue, it's not a life? They tell them that.

Wow.

In the Planned Parenthood places. By the way – for those of you who don't know – Planned Parenthood when it started out with Margaret Sanger, she was a big groupie and participated in orgies and was one of the most evil women in society, as far as that goes. She was the founder. Check with any Planned Parenthood and they'll tell you, Margaret Sanger was the founding lady. Her focus was to get rid of minorities.

Yeah, that's what I hear.

This has been the whole thing with Planned Parenthood from the beginning. Anyway, this one verse: 'I see the news and it tells me each day, 'Is it a life when it's not in the way?' Which is it now? Please tell me this time, before it's too late and we all cross the line.' Another line about believing this bull about Planned Parenthood: 'How many times will you let things go by before you stop believing this lie? How long will you keep suppressing the truth as we are blindly led right into the noose?' Yeah, so anyway, without being, again, too preachy... I was telling you earlier, you know, God came into the Garden of Eden after Cain killed and murdered his brother. God asked him about it and he hopped it off, smart-allecky and said, you know, 'Am I my brothers keeper?' God pointed to him and said to him, 'You know something? Your brother's blood cries out from the ground to Me.' And that is what is going to happen to America. We are going to get judged and all these babies that are being killed – and believe me, folks, it's in the thousands, uh, that are killed each year in the mother's womb. God is not deaf nor will he let this sin go unpunished. I think the only thing holding back the hand of judgment is the fact that America still is bearing the torch for missionaries. We have frickin' Bibles in places like China. where they torture and they martyr Christians still. Don't believe anyone that tells you that it's okay to be a Christian in other countries. In fact, I think I was reading this one missionaries magazine that said more Christians in missionaries have been killed in the last fifty years than have been killed in the entire history of the church.

Oh, my goodness.

So, we sit here in America in the comfort of our homes. We have Trinity Broadcasting Network, we've got PAX, we got CBN – which all these are enjoyable – and we think we're okay. What makes us think that we are so high and mighty that God won't purify America with fire? It could happen. It could happen. To think that just persecution happens to other people in other countries in far away places. Folks, if it'd come to America, it could very well happen on our own soil and, uh, you see it in our news! The way they talk about Christians and our religious leaders. They constantly put them

down. I was watching... Uh, we have a news program called Fox News. Uh, unbiased – they make a big thing about being unbiased.

Uh-huh.

They tell you, 'We tell you the news (and) you decide,' which is true, because the big three – ABC, NBC, CBS – are always biased. Always anti-God and anti-religion. But I heard the gal that was interviewing a preacher and a gay rights activist. She let the preacher start and before she let the counter, pro-liberal homo guy speak she said something that identified her with being on his side. 'Don't you think those guys are kinda... Do you think he's right or is it getting kind of old-fashioned and time to move on from that blah-blah-blah...'

Uh-huh.

You know, there is no such thing as an unbiased news report on the tv, because the devil owns... God has said he is the god of this world. They are allowing him to have a lot of power here on planet earth. So, uh, don't ever expect to see unbiased reporting of the news on your television set. So anyway, that was all a big rabbit trail around the fact that we have it pretty good in America right now. We have religious freedom and when you see somebody practicing . . . putting down civil unrest the way Janet Reno did with Waco and now some of the guys that were on that Delta Force team said we are never supposed to use incendiary smoke grenades, which is what they were throwing in there – fire starters – on a situation like this. And, uh, there are some guys that are regretting the whole thing that were involved in it and it is slowly coming back to... What was Janet Reno's purpose? Even though we all know the guy was kind of a nut, the kids now are saying he never molested anybody, that *that* was just something to excuse her for taking action. We all say, 'That's not us. That's not the Christian church or the Catholic church or Presbyterians or Methodists,' or whatever have you, 'That was some wacko's. It's okay that she killed the wacko's.' Folks, it's right next door when someone can do that to you, cause the whole reason we came to America was for religious freedom.

Uh-huh.

I may not agree with David Karesh, counting the fact that he said he was Jesus Christ or whatever; but at the same time, he really didn't hurt anybody. He was just a little off his beam. And for that it cost him his life and the rest of the lives in the compound. Be afraid for your government, folks. We need to pray for Clinton in a big way, we need to pray for our government and our leaders and our state. It's kind of scary.

No doubt. Well how did the reunion of Metal Church come about?

That was Craig Well's idea. And here again, he's got it all together. He was in, he was out, he was in, he was out. In the end we just had to let it

go. Folks, you need to be careful of cult churches out there. Craig, I believe Craig Wells is... I'm not going to accuse him of it, but things that have come out of his mouth lead me to believe that he is involved in a cult right now. If anyone says only my church is going to heaven...

Uh-huh!

You should be concerned with that person's church.

Yup.

'Only my church is going to heaven...' That was Craig's idea. I was glad. It was pretty fun getting all back together again. Dude, I hate to do this to you, but I kind of gotta get prepped for the next phone call.

Okay.

Um, I would rather spend more time talking with you than the rest of these guys..

Haha.

I'm going to circle your name and I would like to stay in touch with you, Doug.

Yeah, please do. And if there is anything I can do for you, I would be glad to do it. And uh, I'll make sure if I can, uh, get you copies of this.

Please do, I'll give you my address.

Okay, cool. I will get you copies of the magazine, past and future. Meanwhile, if you want to get ahold of one before I get it to you in the mail, uh, you can find us at places like, probably Tower Records there in Seattle probably has it.

Really? Now what is it called again?

It's called HM.

HM. I have it written down. I thought that was for heavy metal or something.

It used to be Heaven's Metal and then back when Nirvana kicked a lot of hair bands, uh, out of the way, we, uh, about four years later knew we had to change the name or else we would cover about four bands.

Uh-huh, okay.

So, uh, we cover a little bit broader spectrum of hard music – you know metal and punk and hardcore, industrial. Anything heavy and extreme.

Right on. Gotta try and avoid that.

Yep.

Okay, man.

Alright.

I'll be in touch and I've got your number and I'll look for those magazines in the mail.

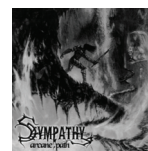
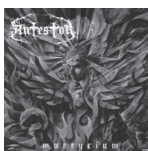
Okay, it was a pleasure talking to you, David.

Same here, Doug. God Bless you.

→|

100 ALBUMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

...SINCE WE LAST PUBLISHED HEAVEN'S METAL (1995)



With the help of a few friends, we thought we'd compile a list of important/seminal/amazing Christian metal albums that were released between now and the last incarnation of Heaven's Metal Magazine. For instance, if you worked for Fed Ex and your plane went down in the Pacific sometime around 1995, and you were just now rescued from a deserted island and were given a nice reparations package for your suffering, here are some albums that you need to spend some of that cash on. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but these albums are good enough that we can offer you the "Pastor Bob Guarantee," which means if you are not completely satisfied with any of these album titles, he will personally refund your money. Okay, we're kidding about that last line, but these are some seriously good metal albums.

The Agony Scene *S/T* (Solid State) 2003

Anaemia *The Second Incarnation* (Endtime Prod.) 1999

Antestor *Return of the Black Death* (Cacophonous) 1998

Antestor *Martyrium* (Endtime Productions) 2000

Antestor *Det Tapte Liv* (Endtime Prod.) 2004

Antidemon *Demonocidio* (indie) 1999

"It is one of my all-time Christian Metal Favorites."—Steve Rowe

Anththesis *Dying For Life* (Nightmare/Massacre) 2001

As I Lay Dying *Frail Words Collapse* (Metal Blade) 2003

Ashen Mortality *Sleepless Remorse* (Forsaken) 1996

Atomic Opera *Gospel Cola* (Metal Blade) 2000

Balance of Power *Ten More Tales...* (Nightmare) 1999

Balance of Power *Perfect Balance* (Nightmare) 2001

"Shelter Me" = best melodic metal song in ten years."—Doug Van Pelt

David Benson *Premonition of Doom* (Indie) 1999

Betrayal *Leaving Nevermore* (Black and White) 1999

The Blamed *Frail* (Tooth & Nail) 1995

Biogenesis *The Mark Bleeds Through* (Rowe) 2001

Consecrator *Image of Deception* (BombWorks) 2004

Alice Cooper *Brutal Planet* (Spitfire) 2000

Crimson Thorn *Unearthed* (R.E.X.) 1995

"A sonic definition of the word 'brutal.'"—Doug Van Pelt

Crimson Moonlight *Covenant Progress* (Rivel) 2003

Deliverance *Assimilation* (Indie Dreams) 2001

Demon Hunter *Summer of Darkness* (Solid State) 2004

Deuteronomium *Here To Stay* (Little Rose) 1999

Disciple *This Might Sting A Little* (Rugged) 1999

Disciple *My God* (Rugged) 2000

Drottmar *Spiritual Battle* (Plankton) 2000

East West *The Light in Guinevere's...* (FloodGate) 2001

Echo Hollow *Diet of Worms* (Geneva) 1998

Embodiment *Embrace the Eternal* (Solid State) 1998

Eternal Decision *S/T* (Godfather) 1996

Eternal Decision *Ghost in the Machine* (Godfather) 1999

Extol *Burial* (Solid State) 1999

Extol *Undeceived* (Solid State) 2000

Fasedown *S/T* (Rescue Records) 2000

Fearful Symmetry *Sad Veil of Tears* (Retroactive) 2003

Frosthadr *Makteslos* (Momentum Scandinavia) 2004

Galactic Cowboys *The Horse That...* (Metal Blade) 1997

Galactic Cowboys *At The End...* (Metal Blade) 1998

"Only the best band in the entire universe...R.I.P."—Doug Van Pelt

Godfear *The Empty* (Juke Box Media) 1995

GROMS *Ascension* (Pleitegeier Records) 1996

Guardian *The Yellow & Black Attack is Back* (G-Man) 1998

Holy Blood *The Wanderer* (Bombworks) 2004

Horde *Hellig Usvar* (Nuclear Blast) 1994

"A black metal classic."—Doug Van Pelt

Immortal Souls *Under the Northern Sky* (Little Rose) 2001

Immortal Souls *Ice Upon the Night* (Facedown) 2004

Impellitteri *Screaming Symphony* (Victor) 1996

Impellitteri *Eye of the Hurricane* (Victor) 1997

Jacobs Dream *S/T* (Metal Blade) 2000

Jerusalem *R.A.D.*

"One of the Top 5 Christian Hard albums in my collection."—Steve Rowe

Joshua Perahia *Something to Say* (M&K) 2001

KEKAL *Beyond the Glimpse of Dreams* (Candlelight) 1998

KEKAL *The Painful Experience* (Clenchedfist) 2001

KEKAL *1000 Thoughts of Violence* (Fear Dark) 2003

Kohlapse *S/T* (indie) 1996

Lament *Tears of a Leper* (Rowe) 1997

Lament *Breathless* (Kingdom) 2002

Last Chapter *Paths to Always* (Braiticket) 2002

Laudamus *Unlimited Love* (CL) 2000

Lengsel *Solace* (Solid State) 2000

Leviticus *Live at BobFest '03* (BTS Records) 2004

Living Sacrifice *Reborn* (Solid State) 1997

"A champion metal band."—Doug Van Pelt

Living Sacrifice *Hammering Process* (Solid State) 2000

Living Sacrifice *Conceived in Fire* (Solid State) 2002

Metanoia *In Darkness or in Light* (Rowe) 1995

Mortal Treason *A Call to the Martyrs* (Flicker) 2004

Mortification *Triumph of Mercy* (Metal Blade) 1998

Mortification *Relentless* (Rowe) 2002

Namia *Long Live the King* (Nuclear Blast) 1999

Officer Negative *The Death Campaign* (T&N) 2004

Oil *Refine* (Kalubone) 2000

Paramaecium *Within the Ancient Forest* (indie) 1996

Rackets & Drapes *Candyland* (indie) 1998

Rivera/Bomma *Invisible Force* (Secret Port) 2002

Rob Rock *Rage of Creation* (Massacre) 2000

Saint *In The Battle* (indie) 2004

Saviour Machine *Legend, Parts I-III* (MCM) 1997

Saviour Machine *Live in Deutschland '02* (MCM) 2003

Schaliach *Sonrise* (Petroleum) 1996

Seventh Avenue *Between the Worlds* (Massacre) 2003

Siloam *Dying to live* (Ocean Records) 1995

Soterios *The Blinding Pain...* (Clenchedfist) 2001

Soul Embraced *This Is My Blood* (Solid State) 2002

Soul Embraced *Immune* (Solid State) 2004

Stryper *7 Weeks: Live in America* (Fifty Three Five) 2004

Sympathy *Invocation* (Fear Dark) 2002

Sympathy *Arcane Path* (Fear Dark) 2004

"Best Christian death metal ever?"—Steve Rowe

Ken Tamplin & Friends *Wake the Nations* (Mascot) 2003

Teramaze *Tears to Dust* (Rowe) 1998

Theocracy *S/T* (Metalages) 2003

Toumiqnet *Crawl to China* (Diadem) 1997

Toumiqnet *Microscopic View...* (Metal Blade) 2000

Toumiqnet *Where Moth and Rust...* (Metal Blade) 2003

Ultimatum *Puppet of Destruction* (Rowe) 1998

Veni Domine *Spiritual Wasteland* (Massacre) 1998

Virgin Black *Elegant...and Dying* (indie) 2003

Warlord *S/T* (Solid State) 1997

Zao *Where Blood & Fire Bring Rest* (Solid State) 1998

Zao *S/T* (Solid State) 2000

"Every hardcore kid knows the words to '5 Year Winter.'"—DV

Zao *The Funeral of God* (Ferret) 2004

Zaxas *S/T* (Noise) 1995

metal album again? I don't know. It's hard to foretell the future, but I'm sure we'll continue pushing our limits and make an album that's extreme in some ways. (As far as the new album goes) I would say that *The Blueprint Dives* is the most diverse Extol album to date. It hasn't been a goal for us to make a heavier album, but some songs turned out to be really heavy, and some songs turned out to be more mid-tempo. But, I have to say that I think this is the most energetic Extol album. We hope that the listener also will discover the nerve in the songs. The new album differs from all the previous albums, but I think that's great! We just wrote songs that came naturally to us, and every band-member was active in the songwriting process."

Despite the style and member changes, the one thing that hasn't changed has been the band's firm Christian beliefs. I asked Espevoll what God has been teaching him recently. "Lately I've been thinking very much about how I live my life and how I spend my time, (energy, talents etc.) And it struck me even more, after the tragic happenings in Asia, that I need to learn to appreciate all the good things in my life, like my friends and family and everything that I have been so lucky to gain and accomplish and experience. Many of us get so many good opportunities in life, and we just take it for granted and don't even appreciate it. I felt God was asking me if I was rich in the Spirit. The Bible talks about the difference of being rich in the Spirit and being rich in material things. I think many of us have a lot to learn. I want to be rich in the Spirit!! I want that everything I do, whether it be trivial or of great importance, to be honoring to God. And I long for His life to affect all the aspects of my life."

Amongst all the praises and complaints over the years regarding Extol, that last statement may be the best reason yet that explains the word "mighty" that so often appears before the band's name. →I

Tell me some stories about people in your audience or band members you've played with that have commented on your beliefs as Christians?

"Sometime we get some comments that some of the audience has felt the Spirit of God when we played. At *Nordic Fest*, we heard that there was an angel right behind Lars when we played, and the angel stood there and watched over us... I hope that it is true, but it's just comments..."

As far as your playing goes, please explain some methods that may be unique for your band in comparison to other bands of your style...

"Well, we used to do corpse paint, for the show, but we still create a very special atmosphere, but in another way...very emotional. I'm not sure we do have anything weird and special."

Speaking of styles, how would you define Antestor's style? How easy or complicated is it to define yourself this way?

"We do not want to be called black metal. That is for sure. We have elements of very varied styles, and there is more to come. 'Sorrow Metal' has been our most common genre...We're not that extreme to be called black or extreme metal, either; so I don't know. I think we must have a vote." (laughs)

What are your goals for the next year and a half?

"Besides from world domination? Well, we are trying to establish a lineup who is trustful and professional in every way...(and) then do some tours. But it's hard to find time that fits our real life – with jobs, wives, girlfriends, kids, and so on. (sighs) Sometimes I wish I'd been 16 again, with no responsibilities..."

What are some of the struggles you guys have gone through as a band?

"We're not young anymore. We do have other responsibilities that must come before Antestor... Financially, Antestor is no business at all... And lyrically, our lyrics now are not that outspoken as before, but still we definitely point to the truth as we see it. We don't want to scare away the non-Christians with Bible propaganda. We want them to dare to come closer to our beliefs... and there are other ways to do that than the obvious for us."

Details: What is the name of your new album? What label is it on? Who will be distributing it? (Europe and USA)

"*The Forsaken* is the title, as mentioned before... It's on Endtime Productions from Sweden – perhaps the best label around here. It will be released in Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg in late January. We are currently working on the distribution in other territories, so stay tuned for news. Until then, any good import store should carry it, or you can order from endtimeproductions.com

List 5-10 essential albums that the reader of HM must own now.

Believer *Dimensions*
the coming Extol album
the Vardøger album
The Endtime compilation, *In the shadows of Death*
That is all there is to own. Hehe...

What has God been teaching you lately?
That He has weird ways..." →I

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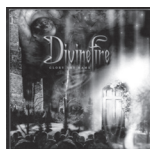
HMmag.com

"This magazine rocks. It's gotten better and better over the years."
• Mike Herrera MxPx

"HM Magazine is the only Christian magazine worth reading if you're into hardcore . . . don't ever try anything else!"
• Tim McTague Underoath

"HM has always given attention to the generally unknown bands – which is what a lot of publications lack. This makes them both important and relevant to the growth and prosperity of modern music."
• Ryan Clark Demon Hunter

ALBUM REVIEWS



DIVINEFIRE

GLORY THY NAME

Divinefire is comprised of Christian Rivel (Narnia), Jani Stefanovic (Renascent, Crimson Moonlight), and Andreas Olsson (Narnia). And if those members weren't enough, the guest members on this album will have you even more excited. They include Eric Clayton (Saviour Machine), Carl Johan Grimmark (Narnia), Fredrik Sjöholm & Torbjörn Weinesjö (Veni Domine), Hubertus Liljegren (Crimson Moonlight), Pontus Norgren (Talisman, Great King Rat), and Thomas Vikström (Brazen Abbot, Candlemass). Divinefire lands in the power/progressive genre mostly, but labeling this band as such does them no justice. From the intro to the outro and everything in-between this album is top-notch metal that just can't be dismissed as anything less than brilliant. Divinefire holds the banner of Jesus Christ high and waves it without shame. If you like your metal aggressive and full of passion and feeling, Divinefire will satisfy on all fronts. Heavy metal albums don't get much closer to perfection than this release. The bar has been set for 2005.

[Rivel] Matt Morrow



JET CIRCUS

LOOK AT DEATH NOW

Remember Jet Circus? Yeah, the band with the funny name that mixed metal with dance music and a little rap back in the early '90's. They actually became pretty popular back in the day. Remember yet? Well, I had a copy of their debut album, *Step On It*, a long time ago. I remember that the local Christian metal station used to play songs like "Step on It" and "Victory Dance" all the time. I kinda liked that stuff at the time, but somewhere along the way I either traded or lost my copy of that album. Well, a week ago I got a copy of Jet Circus' new album, *Look at Death Now*, in the mail. While this album is less metal than their previous material (from what I remember), this is overall a much better disc than their earlier work. This is a solid, heavy, full of attitude, rockin' fun album to listen to. Crunchy/fuzzy guitars,

monster grooves, crazy leads, soaring solos, gritty vocals, blood curdling screams, and lots of headbanging. I must say that I have enjoyed this album quite a bit, and I dare say that this will please old fans of the band, but also will appeal to people that couldn't stand Jet Circus in the past. Those who love Jet Circus, Scorpions, Mad at the World, and maybe even bands like Elder and Bride can find stuff to enjoy here. [Hypersonic] MM



THEOCRACY

S/T

This is a terrific debut album from the one-man band Theocracy. If you are into the power/prog metal scene and enjoy bands like Edguy, Avantasia, Stratovarius, and maybe even bands like Sonata Arctica and Rhapsody, you should really dig this album. Matt Smith has crafted some interesting and exciting songs here that will be stuck in your head for days. The metal is thunderous and dramatic, and filled with lightening fast riffs and crazy guitar solos. These tunes are chock full of huge hooks that will wrap their claws around your ears and hold on for dear life. And vocally, Smith does a very solid job of delivering the goods. There is not really a bad song on this disc. Lyrical content, production, and packaging are also top-notch. One thing is for certain, if you enjoy the bands I listed above, you will definitely be an instant fan of Theocracy. [Metal Ages] MM



CRIMSON MOONLIGHT

VEIL OF REMEMBRANCE

This amazing 6-piece has crafted a brutally fine album of brutal black/death metal, showing a few notches of tightness and intensity (if that were possible) from *Covenant Progress*. Shrill vocals blend in somewhere in the middle frequencies instead of only on the high end of the tonal range, and the blast beat drumming is a perfectly solid foundation for the triple guitar attack of Per Sundberg, Hubertus Liljegren, and Jani Stefanovic. Kudos to Rivel for tasteful, high quality packaging. [Rivel] DV



DESTRA

JOE'S RHAPSODY

Okay, follow me here... Take a copy of *The Green Mile* DVD and pay Trans-Siberian Orchestra to carefully craft a musical adaptation. That is almost precisely what Destra have done with *Joe's Rhapsody*. Crazy thick production dresses these groove-laden tunes wrapped around a story where Joe answers the opening narrative of how he ended up on death row. The dynamics of beautiful, melodic vocals marry perfectly with intense and tight full audio spectrum jamming. This is Brazil's Dream Theater, folks, and they rule. A breath of prog-fresh air. [Advantage] DV



ECHO HOLLOW

SUPERFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

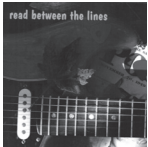
After more delays that almost any album in the history of music, Echo Hollow has finally released their new album *Superficial Intelligence*. I never owned their previous release *Diet of Worms*, but I did hear a couple of the songs and the one thing I do remember is that *Diet of Worms* seemed to be heavier than this material. *Superficial Intelligence* for the most part is a hard rock/metal mixture with almost too much variety. The opening song, "A.D.H.D." is a very upbeat and catchy song with a not-as-heavy, old Tourniquet feel. As far as the rest of the music on the disc, they are all over the map, making one wonder if they have a specific direction they're shooting for. Guy Ritter's vocals conjure up memories of the Tourniquet of old for sure. However, he rarely gets quite as wild as he did on *Stop the Bleeding* or *Psychosurgery*. The band is not afraid to kick it into a fairly high gear, but many mellow moments of acoustic and soft electric guitar and "pretty" vocals will cause many old Tourniquet fans looking for a quick thrill to head for the door. Overall this is not a bad album, but it starts to bog down after song number five. I'll be interested to see if all the anticipation of fans is fulfilled with the final product. [Geneva Records] MM



ATTIC SYMPHONY

S/T

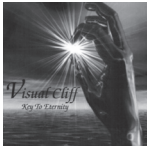
PJ Bussey (of Taker fame) still remembers that to play metal guitar means the ability to solo, which he does all over these 9 instru-metal cuts. Some of the tunes (like "Morningstar Warrior") are quite reminiscent of tunes he recorded with his old 80s melodic metal band. It's amazing how well they hold up without vocals. [indie] DV



CHARLIE READ

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

Old guys shouldn't wear spandex, but if they can still wield an axe and make it cry like a baby then there's still room for 'em in rock 'n' roll. While Mr. Read doesn't venture beyond a couple minutes in each of the 11 songs here, his licks are tasteful and played well. [indie] DV

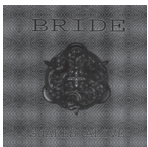


VISUAL CLIFF

KEY TO ETERNITY

LYRICS FOR THE LIVING

Clean instru-metal shredding for the discerning musician, these guys have lots of good material in these two releases. Not quite Dream Theater sans-Labrie, but not too far off. The more recent *Key To Eternity* is the superior and more cohesive album of the two. [Indie] DV

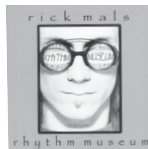


BRIDE

SNAKES ALIVE

Christian rock's version of Creed (i.e. everyone's fav band to mock) was actually so good in their prime that it was almost scary. Their rhythm section was so tight that the band could wander around and seemingly deconstruct their songs live, snapping back at a moment's notice (or slight nod from Troy Thompson). It's too bad that this incarnation of the band wasn't captured with a higher quality recording, as they had it, man. This thin 'n' hollow repro-

duction shows this potential, but leaves the listener wanting. The status of releasing a "real" live recording is one thing, but most all the criticism that those studio doctored "live" albums of the 70s received was missing the point – a good listening experience is what the people want. Perhaps the band's talk of welcoming drummer Jerry McBroom back into the fold will make this kind of wish possible. [Retroactive] DV



RICK MALS

RHYTHM MUSEUM

The multi-talented drummer for Visual Cliff stepped out on his own last year with this 8-song jazz fusion jam session of a disc. While possibly too fast for most listeners to interpret and enjoy, this is a lot of fun. Recommended for those who know who Al DiMeola or John McLaughlin are. [indie] DV



SAINT

WARRIORS OF THE SON

This early Christian metal classic has been given some cosmetic surgery to sound a little better within the context of today's modern studio production. Instead of re-mastering an old demo, the recently reformed band re-recorded the thing. Josh Kramer's Halford howl is still strong, and Dee Harrington and newcomer Jerry Johnson's dual guitars are sharp, crisp, and fast. The only thing missing is that desperation and on-edge note bending that a younger and hungrier band might've unleashed. [indie] DV



REGIME

STRAIGHTTHRU YOUR HEART

This Retroactive limited edition disc is basically a glorified demo, but sounds full nonetheless. Guitarist Rick Hunter shreds all over the thing, and Robert Valdes' vocals are quite solid. Think Europe meets White Lion or Winger. This collector's gem will instantly light the flame of 80s

metal memories (just skip the low-quality live bonus cuts, and you'll be okay). [Retroactive] DV



X-TERRA

WOLVES

You've gotta hand it to this trio for their perseverance. I think they've been around longer than this magazine, but I wouldn't play this for the Metallica boys if they asked me to sample them some Christian metal. This is painful. [indie] DV



HOVLAND

RISE UP

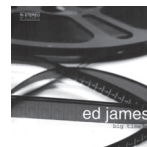
This is a true throwback to the days where Christian metal bands were erupting from everywhere. Bands like Consecrator, Dual Edge, and Ransom attempted to break out Sacred Warrior style with some high octane worshipful and declarative melodic, clean, and power metal. Splitting vocals between husband and wife team Mark and Shannon Hovland major on arena rock anthems. Guitar work includes swells and power chords more than shred. Think Jefferson Starship circa 82. [Fear Dark] DV



SCOTT LAIRD

SIMPLE GIFTS

The violinist who shredded his bow on the last two Believer albums has kept his chops up, evident here on this beautiful instrumental album. No brutality, just melody. [indie] DV



ED JAMES

BIG TIME

Imagine Michael Sweet cranking out more highly polished melodic pop rock. That's what this golden-throated warbler delivers ... so well, in fact, that if you close your eyes, you'd swear it was him. [Jam Recordings] DV

LICKS & TRICKS

By Jeff Scheetz



Mode swapping for the masses

Modal scales can either send a player running for cover, or make them roll their eyes with confusion, or hopefully make them smile because they know their modes and can use them to fully explore all of the harmonic possibilities that a chord progression presents. So where do you land in this scenario?

This lesson is going to give you a couple of versions of the same lick – one with a Dorian tonality and the other with an Aeolian flavor. By doing licks like these you can develop your ability to hear when and where to use what particular mode. It will show you how a simple chord progression can be shaped by the mode played over it.

All the while we keep rocking! Modes are not reserved for the jazz or classical cats, proper use of modes can enhance even the most traditional rocker. In this lesson we play almost the same lick – first with a Dorian flavor – then we make it Aeolian. There is only one note difference between the Dorian and Aeolian scales – the Dorian has a natural 6th. So listen for the difference as you play it and see if you hear the changes that would have to take place in the chordal structure of a song in order for one of these to work better than the other. For more lessons go to www.jeffscheetz.com

Dorian version

Aeolian version

DRUM & DRUMMER

By John Simmons



Drumming and Dominion, Part Two

Last issue, I began to put forth some foundational principles which will guide us in the pursuit of playing the drums to the glory of God. We will continue that process by considering some observations about the nature of our task.

Remember that any human endeavor is an extension of the “Dominion Mandate” given to our father Adam, reiterated to Noah, and restated by the Lord Jesus. So then, taking up the art of drumming is one way some of us are called to “subdue the earth.” It is therefore our responsibility to diligently work at perfecting our craft and to play well.

God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and made every tree grow in it that is pleasant to the eye and good for food. He then took the man He had created and placed him in the garden to tend and keep it.

Now, “tending” and “keeping” imply development. Adam needed to learn about each kind of tree—their fruits, seasons, requirements, and so forth. Further, he would be required to work daily, applying his knowledge, growing in skill and wisdom, making the garden more and more beautiful. Having been commanded to multiply and to fill and subdue the earth, it is implicit that Adam was to spread this task outward from the Garden into all the world.

Remember, all of this was prior to the Fall. Having been restored in Christ, we who through God’s mercy are regenerate have no reason to believe that our lives here and in the hereafter should not involve “tending and keeping.” We need to study this “garden” of rhythm in which we have been placed, learn the lay of the land and the kinds and seasons of the trees, and work diligently to keep everything in order, ever striving to improve our skills and please God by making the garden more beautiful.

How are your skills? What is the extent of your knowledge? Are there corners of the garden you have neglected? Parts you’ve never seen? How often are you out there getting your hands dirty? Meditate on these things, and get ready to work next time.

[John Simmons is the drummer for Atomic Opera (among other things) and a drum teacher in Houston, Texas. His website is www.johnnydrums.com. Please visit and send him an email. He lives for that.]

THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET

By Steve Rowe

Has music been desensitized?

With digital music taking us to mp3s, downloads & now ipods that can hold 100's of songs on something little bigger a coin, we must ask ourselves, "has music been desensitized?"

I have started listening to vinyl again. I have alot of Records & CDs & none of my CDs are burned. The word is that CDs & even DVDs may be gone in 7 years with the rapid advance in digital downloads. Where possible I am buying Records of new releases instead of CDs. Alot of imports from Germany I can get on vinyl.

I love the whole artwork package of a Metal release on vinyl or DigiPak CD. It touches all the senses. I have gate fold vinyl of both the first two Resurrection Band albums "Awaiting your reply" & "Rainbows end". It is very tactile as I ease the Records out of the sleeves & put them on the turntable. As I listen I view the beautiful full color 24 Inchs of the album cover. Rainbows end has Exquisite Artwork and the smell of the late 70's vinyl adds to the complete enjoyment of a full sensory musical experience.

I bought a DigiPak CD/ DVD double with gate fold & bonus jacket patch last week. Delux! To say the very least. Often music art like this is so good I can taste it!

Not only is Mortification broke because people steal our music rather than buying it but those who download are missing all the sensory value of buying a complete piece of art. Metal is way more than music & even words. God has so ministered to all my being through the full package of Christian Metal Art bought and played as it should be. The sense that I am suporting another



Metal Artist also gives me a great feeling of support for others that fight on in Metal.

Even if downloads become regulated, I as a purest of music art listening will always hunt down Hard Copy releases. Art that is the real deal means so much more than a tiny ipod full of a bunch of disassociated songs.

PsychoAcoustiX
Records

Extreme Industrial, Gothic, doom, death/black, electronic, and punk/hardcore music

Fronted by founding member Jimmy P. Brown II of late 80's/early 90's pioneer Metal band Deliverance, Fearful Symmetry is the result of combining emotion and passion with the dark electronic elements of industrial/synthpop and new wave.

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SOUND ADVICE

By Pastor Bob

I As I write this, I am in the middle of a big project. I am narrating the entire New Testament that will be available on CD. It has been an interesting project. It seems, at times, that whatever can go wrong does go wrong. We've had many difficulties with the recording equipment, as well as with the recording environment. Then, there are also problems with human error: that would be me! I didn't realize I could make so many mistakes simply reading.

But, no matter how frustrating the day gets, or how many hours we put in, there is one constant: the Word of God is powerful and effective. There is a persistent joy deep inside of me that transcends the recording environment. Even though I have devoted my life to studying and teaching the Bible, it continues to amaze me with its power and insight for today, hundreds of years later. The Psalmist said it best: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." I am convinced that our minds, bathed in the Word of God, are transformed daily.

As I am reading every day, I am reminded of what a good friend this book has been to me. Familiar passages seem like old friends. The Bible has been a constant companion throughout the years. It has

gotten me through times of difficulty and distress. There have been those circumstances when I honestly thought I couldn't make it. I have experienced the death of loved ones, difficulties with friendships, even the death of dreams. Many times those situations have left me in despair and feeling hopeless. It has been those times that the Word has been most comforting. But then, there have been the good times – those times when it seems the words jump off the pages with fresh vision and insight. I realize I have done a lot of dreaming with this Book in my hands. It has truly defined my life.

As I continue in this project, it is a reminder to me of this great love affair I have had with God and his Word. It had been personal and intimate. It has been powerful and effective. It has been the shaper of my dreams and author of my visions. But above all, it continues to be my best friend: trustworthy and true.

Where is your Bible? Is it sitting on the shelf, or buried under a pile of laundry? It's time to get it out again. Opening its cover reveals the very thoughts of God. Why don't you allow God to transform your life through his Word today?

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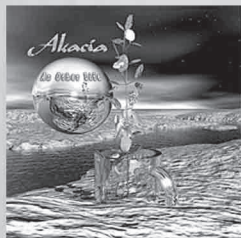
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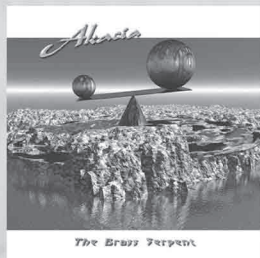


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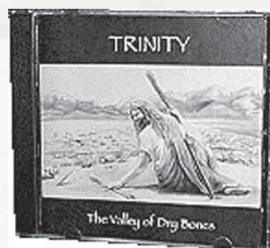
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Illustration by Eric Timms

BLACK & WHITE ISSUES

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

We are all chosen by God. There is an empty spot in all of us that only He can fill. No matter what you try and put in that hole, you will never be whole. You will be dead until that day.